

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

14

June 24, 2003

FROM: ROBERT L. MCKERNAN, Director
County Museums

**SUBJECT: AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY FOR
BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve agreement with Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) of Las Vegas, Nevada, whereby the San Bernardino County Museum will provide biological research through March 1, 2004 in the amount of \$149,952 related to the Yuma Clapper Rail and Yellow-billed Cuckoo riparian and wetlands habitats in southern Nevada, and Virgin River avian studies.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On March 27, 2001, the Board approved Agreement No. 01-218 with SNWA of Las Vegas, Nevada, whereby the San Bernardino County Museum provided biological research between March 27, 2001 and December 1, 2001 in the amount of \$38,000 related to the study of Yuma Clapper Rail and Yellow-billed Cuckoo riparian and wetlands habitats in Southern Nevada. Museum staff provided a final report to SNWA on January 15, 2002.

On April 9, 2002, the Board approved Agreement No. 02-273 with SNWA of Las Vegas, Nevada, whereby the San Bernardino County Museum provided biological research between April 9, 2002 and September 1, 2002 in the amount of \$80,380 related to the Yuma Clapper Rail and Yellow-billed Cuckoo riparian and wetlands habitats in Southern Nevada, and Grand Canyon avian studies.

Several weeks ago, the SNWA requested a new contract with San Bernardino County for Museum staff to continue the study on the status of suitable riparian and wetlands habitats for the Yuma Clapper Rail and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Virgin River avian studies in 2003 and 2004. Due to the timing of monthly SNWA board meetings and on the basis of prior Board of Supervisors approval for the same studies, staff continued work on this project before this new contract could be signed and presented for approval.

The data collected in relation to the agreement would contribute to the protection of endangered species on SNWA lands. The Museum has the necessary expertise and experience to provide the required field work through its Biological Science Division. Under terms of the agreement, Museum staff would provide biological surveys, evaluation of habitat, draft report to SNWA by January 1, 2004, and a final report by March 1, 2004. Results of these studies will not impact other San Bernardino County programs or operations. The agreement contains a mutual hold harmless provision.

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REVIEW BY OTHERS: This agreement has been approved as to legal form by County Counsel (Scott M. Runyan, Deputy County Counsel) on June 11, 2003 and has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst) on June 14, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The Department has sufficient appropriations in its FY 2002/03 budget to fund costs totaling \$71,888 for this agreement through June 30, 2003. Remaining appropriations and revenue for this agreement (\$78,064) have been included in the Department's FY 2003/04 budget. The Department will be compensated for its services at the rates set forth in County Code Section 16.0218. The estimated revenues to be generated from this item (\$149,952) will fully offset the Museum's anticipated costs.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: Robert L. McKernan, 798-5719